

Overnight operations focused on collection of water from outside the containment wall, before it could pass through the site and to the retention pond. This water is being pumped into tank 398 for use in thinning the glycerin for pumping and transport. This was the focus due to frozen conditions around the site. Water that does flow into the retention pond is being pumped in batches as opposed to continuous pumping. When the pond reaches a pumpable level, the hoses are treated with glycerin and the water is pumped to the tanker. This helps to prevent the hoses from freezing. In addition to the site being frozen, the Elk River is frozen over.

The frozen river has caused some concerns for Clean Harbors and their ability to keep the ice down inside the boom containment. Two options were suggested at the meeting, one being to leave the ice in place behind the containment boom. The second option is to carefully remove the bottom boom and force the ice from behind the containment and reinstall the boom. Freedom asked that the WVDEP decide which option to use.

Today the plan was to ship material to Big Run in Ashland, KY, but this cannot happen due to the sub-freezing temperatures. The water in the holding tank is frozen and cannot be pumped.

Freedom Industries has sent a letter to the WVDEP asking for approval to use the clean water they are collecting to dilute the glycerin for shipment. They anticipate a reply to their request today.

Senator Manchin was on site late yesterday to discuss the plan of action at the site. He spoke with the EPA OSCs and the WVDEP. The National Guard escort stayed behind and was escorted on a site walk by the WVDEP.

The WVDEP left fliers to be posted around the site with phone numbers to be contacted in case of an observed sheen or release of material to the river. The WVDEP is also concerned with ice management.